PITNEY BOWES

● Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge an important milestone by an important institution in my home state of Connecticut—Pitney Bowes. For the past 78 years, Pitney Bowes has been at the forefront of technological innovation. The postage metering mechanisms that the company patented more than seven decades ago have faithfully performed their everyday task of metering postage.

Twenty years ago Pitney Bowes introduced a postage by phone system, which allowed businesses to refill their postage meters over the phone. This technology has just passed a major milestone. Recently, Pitney Bowes announced the signing of its one-millionth active postage by phone customer. Connecticut's Governor, John Rowland, was on hand to commemorate this event and presented the company with a proclamation noting that nearly three quarters of a billion dollars in time and labor have been saved since the postage by phone system was implemented.

Together with numerous mass mailing machines developed over the years, Pitney Bowes has changed the face of commerce. They enabled mass mail marketing and created millions of jobs. Indeed, every member of this body has had a campaign that depended on the mass mail systems developed by Pitney Bowes.

However, Pitney Bowes is not just postage meters. It's not just faxes, copiers, software, business services, financial services, or cryptographic security for cyberspace transactions and communications. It is not just PC postage metering which makes it possible for businesses to print postage using only a PC and a standard printer. It is not just the $100 million in R&D it spends each year or the dozens of new patents that Pitney Bowes receives annually. It is not just cutting-edge technology.

The spirit of Pitney Bowes is found in its people. More than one million customers, mostly small businesses, use Pitney Bowes products to efficiently conduct their business. Tens of millions of our citizens benefit from the company's mailing and messaging systems. More than thirty thousand employees—seven thousand of these in Connecticut—are dedicated to making all of our jobs easier. It is this spirit that has resulted in Pitney Bowes being repeatedly listed as one of the 100 best companies to work for in America, recognized as providing meaningful opportunities for women and minorities, and respected as a leader in the Connecticut business community.

Congratulations to the Pitney Bowes workforce on this new milestone.●

DR. ROBERT F. FURCHGOTT

● Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, today I rise to congratulate Dr. Robert F. Furchgott of the State University of New York Health Science Center at Brooklyn on winning the 1998 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.

Dr. Furchgott, along with Dr. Louis J. Ignarro of the University of California at Los Angeles, and Dr. Ferid Murad of the University of Texas, were awarded the Nobel Prize for their discoveries of how natural production of nitric oxide can mediate a wide variety of bodily actions. Those include the regulation of blood pressure, widening blood vessels, preventing the formation of blood clots, fighting infections, reducing sexual dysfunction, and functioning as a signal molecule in the nervous system.

The bestowment of this prestigious honor to Dr. Furchgott brings long overdue recognition to the medical research conducted at ''SUNY Downstate''. I commend Dr. Furchgott and the entire staff of the State University of New York Health Science Center at Brooklyn for their many contributions to the field of medicine.

Mr. President, I ask that the article on Dr. Robert F. Furchgott from the New York Times be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows.

RESEARCH HONOR GOES TO THE BROOKLYN SIDE

(By Jennifer Steinhauer)

The State University of New York Health Science Center at Brooklyn has always been a bit of an underdog among the city's medically elite institutions. In spite of its groundbreaking work in the study of AIDS, alcoholism and other illnesses, kudos most often went to hospitals and research centers on the other side of the Brooklyn Bridge, like Mount Sinai and New York University.

But yesterday, SUNY Downstate, as the science center is known, earned its boasting rights over Manhattan when Dr. Robert F. Furchgott, a distinguished professor of pharmacology there, received a Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, the highest recognition possible for a body of work that most Americans would recognize only in the form of Viagra.

Dr. Furchgott, 82, is in many ways a quintessential representative of Downstate, which had never received that Nobel Prize and is better known to most New Yorkers as the college that provides doctors to Kings County Hospital Center, one of the city's busiest and perhaps most embattled hospitals.

Colleagues described Dr. Furchgott as modest, spending nearly every day nibbling sandwiches and eating yogurt in his office while poring over scientific journals, or toiling in his laboratory, pondering the mysteries of nitric, pondering the mysteries of nitric oxide.

''His personal modesty stands in marked contrast to his magnificent achievement,'' said Dr. Eugene B. Feigelson, the college's dean of medicine. ''It is a source of pride for the entire institution and to Brooklyn and is a further distinction for us and for the State University of New York.''

When asked to reflect on his honor, Dr. Furchgott seemed almost dismissive. ''I was kind of surprised,'' he said in a telephone interview from his home in Hewlett, N.Y. ''My work is sort of old-fashioned pharmacology.

''Is it the highlight of my career? I guess in a way, though you don't do research to win prizes. You do it because you're curious about what makes things tick.''

Sure, international attention, television cameras planted on the front lawn, phone ringing off the hook with calls from reporters struggling mightily to understand the subtleties of his work—these things have tickled him.

But his favorite moment in his entire career, he said, ''was when we discovered that endothelial cells were necessary for relaxation of arteries.''

''Then,'' he said, ''it was finding that the endothelium-derived relaxing factor was nitric oxide. There have been lots of fun things.''

He is, by admission of his admirers, a serious man of research.

''His lectures were dull, onerous and droning on,'' said Eli A. Friedman, a distinguished teaching professor of medicine at SUNY Downstate and a former student of Dr. Furchgott. ''But the content of his work was profound and inspiring. So if one could get past the fact that he was less than electric competition for Jackie Gleason on television, he was very exciting and moving.''

Dr. Furchgott, who holds a doctorate in biochemistry and is a professor emeritus at Downstate, won his prize for discoveries of new properties of nitric oxide. With colleagues, he was able to demonstrate that the gas nitric oxide can act as a messenger molecule that tells blood vessels to relax and dilate, which lowers blood pressure. The discovery was vital to developing the anti-impotence drug Viagra.

In 1996, he won an Albert Lasker Award in basic medical research, which is often a precursor award to the Nobel Prize. ''Everyone here will walk a little straighter and hold their head a little higher because he is here.'' Dr. Friedman said.

Dr. Furchgott was born in Charleston, S.C., and received a B.S. in chemistry from the University of North Carolina in 1937 and a doctorate in biochemistry from Northwestern University in 1940.

When asked what else he would like known about his career, Dr. Furchgott said: ''Nothing really. I would like to get myself some lunch now.''●

GRACE M. AMODEO

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, communities are not defined by physical borders. They are defined by people. People who are concerned for the well-being of their neighbors, even if they do not know them. People who want to make their town a good place to raise children. People who recognize the importance of being a part something larger than themselves. Today, I want to speak about one such person who has worked tirelessly to make Rocky Hill, Connecticut a true community: Grace M. Amodeo.

Born in Italy, Grace Amodeo has lived in Rocky Hill for 44 years. Grace is a political pioneer in this town. In 1971, she ran for Mayor of Rocky Hill and earned the nomination of the Democratic party, the first woman to ever do so. Although she didn't win, she did not let that set-back deter her from actively serving her community throughout her life.

Grace Amodeo was a member of the Board of Education for eight years, and she served as the secretary for four years. A woman of strong faith, she was a Eucharistic Minister at St.